

REMARKS

Claim 24 has been amended to call for the first abrasion-resistant coating to be limited to “a polysiloxane cured material.” Applicant reserves the right to file a continuation application to pursue broader claims, such as those claims pending at the time of the last office action including prior claim 24 which included recitation of (meth)acrylic first abrasion-resistant coating. The amendment finds support throughout the application.

The examiner indicated that claim 26 is allowable. Accordingly, claim 26 has been canceled in favor of new claim 37, which rewrites claim 26 in independent form.

The examiner indicated that claim 34 is allowable. Accordingly, claim 34 has been rewritten in independent form.

Claims 24-25, 27-30, 32-33, and 35 were rejected under §103 based on Bier et al in view of U.S. Patent 4,207,357 (Goosens et al.).

The examiner asserted that Biers et al. fails to disclose a (meth)acrylic- or polysiloxane intermediate layer. The examiner asserted that Bier al al. contemplated the addition of a primer layer to the base substrate comprising polycarbonate prior to applying the abrasion resistant layer.

The examiner stated that Goosens et al. taught that siloxanes films (col. 5, lines 29-59) similar to those disclosed by Bier et al. do not always exhibit the degree of robust and uniform adhesion desired of them when placed over a polycarbonate-based substrate. According to the examiner, “It is, therefore, common practice to use primers to increase the strength of interaction between these materials. However, polycarbonates are easily attacked by many known primers or the solvent system required to deliver them (column 1, lines 44-48). Accordingly, Goosens sought alternative adhesion promoters that are not display bonding properties between polycarbonate and siloxanes polymer but also is compatible with each. Their solution was to use

an emulsion comprising a thermosetting acrylic (column 3, lines 28-37) as a leveling agent (column 4, lines 46-49).”

While not stated specifically, it is apparently the examiner’s contention that it would be obvious to employ the emulsion comprising a thermosetting acrylic and a hydroxy ether compound taught in Goosens as an intermediate layer in Bier et al.

Applicant disagrees.

Goosens et al. discloses the use of a primer comprising an emulsion of a thermohardenable acrylic polymer and a hydroxyether on a polycarbonate substrate prior to the deposition of an anti-abrasion coating comprising a colloidal silica filled polyorganosiloxane. The primer layer is said to enhance adhesion of the anti-abrasion coating on the polycarbonate substrate.

However, Example 3 of the present application shows that a lens comprising two anti-abrasive layers, namely a first polysiloxane cured material layer and a second anti-abrasion layer as defined in claim 24, exhibits outstanding properties both regarding abrasion resistance (Bayer test) and scratch resistance (steel wool test). The improvement of these properties, compared to other examples, is very important.

This unexpected and surprising result is provided by the combination of the specific anti-abrasion layer obtained from oxalic acid/organoalkoxysilane and an anti-abrasion coating already deposited on the substrate. A skilled artisan does not find in Goosens any motivation to use the claimed combination of anti-abrasion coatings to simultaneously enhance abrasion and scratch resistance, since Goosens merely seeks to improve coating adhesion on a polycarbonate substrate. Assuming the combination is proper, this comparative evidence rebuts the examiner’s §103 rejection.

In view of the foregoing, the rejection under §103 based on Bier et al. in view of Goosens should be withdrawn.

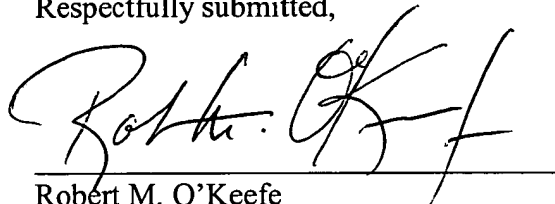
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and Notice of Allowance are courteously solicited.

A request for a three-month extension of time is submitted herewith. If the request is missing, please consider this paper to be a request for such extension and deduct any required fee from deposit account 10-1205.

Should any fees under 37 CFR 1.16-1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 10-1205. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the phone number indicated below with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate expeditious and compact prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. O'Keefe", is written over a horizontal line.

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